

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 19 and 21 are currently pending. Claims 7, 16 and 21 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 1 to 6, 8 to 15 and 17-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 6,275,623 (Brophy et al).

The Examiner has deemed claim 7 allowable because the prior art does not teach that: "the concave surface of the modulator array has a radius of curvature approximately equal to a focal length of the diffraction grating". Accordingly, claim 1 has been amended to include the elements of claims 4 and 7, which have been cancelled. Similarly, claim 14 has been amended to include the features defined in claim 16, and claim 18 has been amended to include the features defined in claims 19 and 21. As a result, claims 15, 16, 19 and 21 have also been cancelled.

Minor amendments have been made to claims 5 and 6 to correct the dependency and to ensure all aspects of the invention are protected. Claims 22 and 23 have been added for similar reasons

As such, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims remaining in the application are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable consideration would be appreciated. Should any minor informalities need to be addressed, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

As this amendment has been timely filed within the set period of response, no petition for extension of time or associated fee is required. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies in the fees provided to Deposit Account No. 50-1465.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, which may be required, or credit any over-payment to Deposit Account No: 50-1465.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy W. Lacasse". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "R" at the beginning.

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